Which schools are doing wonderfully effective or innovative/paradigm shifting work with technology? Please feel free to suggest your own.  
  
Thanks very much.  
  
Lisa Pedicini  
Director of Technology Integration and eLearning  
The Spence School  
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I believe that Hotchkiss employs an excellent model for technology integration.  We piloted a "Fab 15" program this fall, and it has been incredibly successful.  The Dean of Faculty selected 15 faculty members, and I have worked with each faculty member to create, implement, and assess technology rich projects.  
  
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The School at Columbia is worth a look. They are really embracing the use of  
Google Apps plus they've built their own social network and media sharing  
tools that are used extensively and creatively for academic purposes.  
  
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I work with any faculty member that needs help, but those 15 get preferred "seating" and more focused time to work on enhancing something they are already doing.  Please feel free to contact me offlist :-)  
  
Here are some of the projects:  
  
1.  The Alchemist Project - International collaboration project with a Moroccan school and a French class using Mixbooks, Skype, Voice Thread, and Wikis ([http://Levithan.wikispaces.com](http://Levithan.wikispaces.com" \t "_blank))  
  
2.  Lit Trips using Google Earth (Huck Finn and Room with a View)  
  
3.  Podcast projects in History, Philosophy, and English using Audacity, iMovie, Jing, and ScreenToaster  
  
4.  Enhanced BlackBoard usage in Chemistry, History, French, and our Humanities Core  
  
5.  Geomathing in Algebra using wikis and GPS units (<http://geomathing.wikispaces.com>)

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Hi Lisa -  
  
My kids go to Lab and the entire computer science department is on this list  
in addition to Curt Lieneck who is the Director of Technology. I'm sure they  
would be happy to talk to you about technology at the Laboratory Schools.  
  
Two other schools come to mind when thinking about technology integration.  
You might want to contact Judy Beaver at Punahou in Hawaii. She runs a  
fabulous summer program where teachers work with experts to integrate  
technology into their summer school classes, and thus have the opportunity  
to practice new concepts outside of the regular school year. She's built a  
ning social network for this. Judy is a great resource, and if she's an  
example of the kind of people that work at Punahou, it must be an amazing  
place.  
  
The other school that I'm thinking of is St. George's Independent School in  
Memphis, TN. Julene Reed is their technology director and she is another  
amazing leader. Julene's forte is organizing global projects for St.  
George's students. Most recently, she and a few students traveled to the  
tundra to observe polar bears with scientists as part of a Polar Bears  
International initiative. Julene used video conferencing to communicate with  
audiences around the world:  
[http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=19605&version=7695&pageID=19406](http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=19605&version=7695&pageID=19406" \t "_blank)  
  
Finally, if you're interested in connecting with other independent schools,  
particularly ones that have 1 to 1 laptop programs, I highly recommend  
iSummit, a small conference that's held every  year by the Coalition for  
Lighthouse Schools. I've attended and presented at this event for the past  
two years, and I find it to be not as overwhelming as NECC/ISTE etc. Here is  
the info for iSummit: [http://www.lighthouseschools.com/isummit.html](http://www.lighthouseschools.com/isummit.html" \t "_blank)  
  
Hope this helps,  
  
Lucy

Perhaps I'm asking for too much during the holiday season (my parents used to say that), but I've been waiting for somebody to answer Lisa's original question in its entirety. Thus far, I have seen some great new ideas for technology integration, and some that we already use at Choate. What I haven't seen is a response to the "wonderfully effective or innovative/paradigm shifting" portion of the question. I could certainly infer that these projects have improved teaching and learning or they would not be mentioned, but it would be fascinating to hear how that improvement has occurred.  
  
Happy holidays,  
  
Joel

My suggestion was the School at Columbia, and I didn't elaborate as I can't  
speak for the school and I assumed that if people were interested they could  
dig further. Don Buckley, the tech director at the School at Columbia, is  
very generous with his time and expertise, by the way.  
  
That said, here's an inkling why I am impressed with this school...  it  
boils down to their constructivist view of teaching and the technological  
infrastructure that has been custom built to support the needs of the school  
community. THE, as it's commonly referred to, has an intranet complete with  
media sharing (instead of YouTube, their video space is called THE Tube) and  
social networking. It's also a 1 to 1 laptop school starting in second  
grade. While I'm unsure at which grade level this starts, kids develop their  
online identities with guidance from staff by creating their own social  
networking profiles and avatars. Middle schoolers then go on to develop  
similar profiles for historical figures. All of these profiles are tagged  
with keywords and these keywords appear in a word cloud on the front page of  
the social network space. Clicking on a keyword shows you various profiles  
that are linked together by the concept, and it seems to really help kids  
make connections.  
  
The School also has started using Google Apps this year. Specifically, they  
are using Google Sites for kids to write book reviews and work on various  
projects. All of the content produced is tagged and searchable and this  
makes it easy for others in the school community to find information. For  
instance, if a kid wants to read a certain book, but needs more information,  
they can search for the title and read what other kids have written about  
the particular title. Student work is also organized by class year, so work  
follows kids from grade to grade, creating a digital portfolio.  
  
These are just a couple examples of what's going on at this school. For more  
info, you can listen to this podcast from last year:  
[http://edtechtalk.com/node/3429](http://edtechtalk.com/node/3429" \t "_blank)  
  
Hope this helps,  
  
Lucy Gray

Joel,  
  
I don't think you will get your holiday wish soon. Schools are typically way behind the "paradigm shifts" going on in society. While speaking with a research chemist last week when she found out that I worked in technology in schools, she asked me:"Do they have clue as to what is going on in the world, how fast things are moving?" Guardedly, I said that there were a few, but in reality I believe that the disconnect between education and people that are actually doing things in the world is enormous.  If you are familiar with Manuel Castells I think he does a fair job at describing the paradigm shift that is just beginning to occur. According to Castells everything is being transformed by "information networks" the economy, work, culture, politics, the state. Education will change too, probably more dramatically than we can conceive at the moment. Decentralization is at the heart the new information network, but schools continue to be bastions of centralized authority. It seems that to begin entry in to the new paradigm, schools must first take stock of what is happening in the world at large and then begin to strategize how to become more engaged in the information network. Simply using modern tools in a traditionally centralized system will not do it.  
  
Tom Flanagan  
The Winsor School

Simply using modern tools in a traditionally centralized system will not do it.

LIke many other things in life, what will (probably) drive schools to reexamine the way they operate (shift paradigms, which includes the issue of decentralization) is costs. The traditional bricks-and-mortar approach will prove way too expensive compared to other approaches that are available in the information age. If there's one truth I have learned in my life, when I need to figure out what is happening or what will happen and why, it's to look at money for some of the answers.  
  
Ross Lenet  
Sidwell Friends School